

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 108943

61

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APPROVED BY EUR/SOV:JFMATLOCK

S/S - MR. MILLER

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O R 232255Z MAY 74 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 108943

TOSEC 962

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, CGEN, UR, US

SUBJECT: ASYLUM REQUEST BY SOVIET SEAMAN

1. DEPARTMENT WAS NOTIFIED BY FBI AFTERNOON OF MAY 23 THAT SOVIET SEAMAN IVAN KHONENKO HAD REQUESTED POLITICAL ASYLUM OF US AUTHORITIES IN ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA. KHONENKO WAS CREW MEMBER OF SOVIET VESSEL M/S SHURA KOBER, NOW IN PORT AT ERIE.

2. DEPARTMENT HAS NOTIFIED OTHER USG AGENCIES ACCORDING TO STANDARD PROCEDURES AND STRESSED REQUIREMENT FOR PROTECTIVE CUSTODY UNTIL ASYLUM REQUEST ACTED UPON. DEPARTMENT HAS ADVISED FBI AND ERIE POLICE THAT OTHER SOVIET NATIONALS SHOULD NOT HAVE ACCESS TO SEAMAN AND REQUESTS FOR ACCESS OR INFORMATION SHOULD BE REFERRED TO DEPARTMENT.

3. INS HAS ACKNOWLEDGED TO DEPARTMENT THAT IT HAS ACTION RESPONSIBILITY. WE ARE INFORMED THAT SEAMAN WILL BE IN SAFE CUSTODY OF ERIE POLICE UNTIL INS OFFICER CAN TRAVEL TO ERIE TO ASSUME CHARGE OF CASE.

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4. SOVIET EMBASSY HAS NOT YET CONTACTED DEPARTMENT ON CASE BUT WE EXPECT THEY WILL DO SO SOON. NORMAL PRACTICE WOULD BE TO ALLOW SOVIET CONSULAR OFFICER TO INTERVIEW SEAMAN UNDER DEPARTMENT'S AUSPICES WITHIN A FEW DAYS IF REQUEST MADE FOR ACCESS. RUSH

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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